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## DOH-COLLIER REMINDS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

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**Naples, Fla.** — The 2019 Hurricane Season is here and the Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) urges residents and visitors to take action now to prepare for severe weather emergencies.

A key way to cope with a disaster is to have a plan. Following an emergency or disaster, you may lose access to basic services, such as power and water, and be subject to limited or no access to essentials like food and water. The Florida Department of Emergency Management provides an interactive tool, [Get a Plan!](#), to help families and businesses stay prepared. This useful tool allows you to answer a series of questions and create a customized plan for you.

The time may arise when you may need to evacuate your home to go to a safer place. In certain situations, it may be safest for you to evacuate to a more secure location like a shelter. A hurricane evacuation shelter is a refuge of last resort; a place to go if you cannot stay at home or with a relative, friend, or co-worker, or nearby hotel. Hurricane shelters are also available for people who have no other place to go. The Florida Division of Emergency Management maintains a list of [open shelters on their website](#).

If you have a disability or a special need such as a medical condition, it is vital that you register with your [local emergency management office](#). All emergency management offices maintain a list of people within the community who have disabilities or special needs, so they can be assisted quickly during an emergency.

If you are eligible for a Special Needs Shelter, your kit should include the following: a list of medications and dosage, a 30-day supply of medications, vital medical equipment for those who may be electrically or oxygen dependent, back-up energy sources for essential medical equipment, any dietary needs or food, as well as personal information including photo ID, insurance card, emergency contacts, and your primary care providers contact information.

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The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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